The Nexus of Numismatics in Nebraska

The Nebraska Numismatic Association

Journal

The Official Publication of the
Nebraska Numismatic Association

October / November / December 2012

Volume 56 Issue 4

Fall's Abundance

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The Nebraska Numismatic Association

Journal

The Official Publication of the N.N.A.

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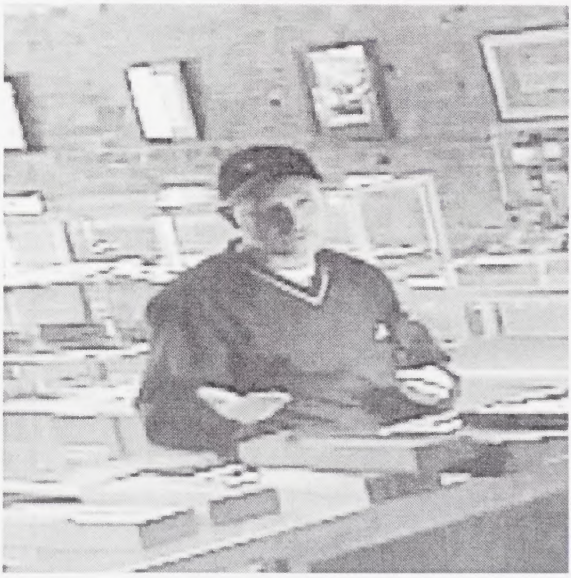
- Dec. 1-for Jan/Feb/March issue
- Mar. 1 - for April/May/June issue
- June 1 - for July/Aug/Sept issue
- Sept. 1 - for Oct/Nov/Dec issue

Numismatic Crime Reports

At approximately noon, Saturday, September 8, 2012 a robbery occurred at Kearney Coin Center, 2006 Central Ave., Kearney, NE. No one was hurt. A person walked out with a seated 1847 dollar-- AU+ cleaned, looks unc, a half Krugerrand no date available; a 2 1/2 dollar gold AU 1913 ? and approximately 15 - 20 Unc dollars, mostly common dates.



This is a photo of the alleged suspect. If you have recognize him or any of the above mentioned coins, **please contact your local authorities** and/or Bjorn_Bergstrom at 308-222-0340, Email bergstrom_bjorn@yahoo.com

If you are a Nebraska Club and have a Coin Show or Numismatic event planned, send a flyer 3-6 months in advance to:

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Nebraska Numismatic Association Journal
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Omaha, NE 68124
Email: nuMitchmatist@msn.com

"My 2 Cents"

Mitch Ernst
President / Editor

I cannot endure to waste anything as precious
as autumn sunshine by staying in the house.
So I spend almost all the daylight hours in the open air.
-Nathaniel Hawthorne

Ah, Fall; the beautiful respite from our brutal summer and a yearly reminder of the beauty that lay hidden all around us. This issue of the Journal is loaded with news and information regarding club meetings, shows and even a numismatic crime that took place in Nebraska.

Omaha Coin Club and Lincoln Numismatic Society both held shows in August, and you can find reports on those events on pages 4 thru 7. Speaking of Lincoln Numismatic Society, they have a new website and you can find out about that on page 8. Fremont Coin club held an old fashioned chicken dinner on July 21st. Pictures of that event are on pages 10 & 11.

Central States Numismatic Society is putting on a contest to design their 75th Anniversary medal. Find out how you can participate and what the prizes are on page 18.

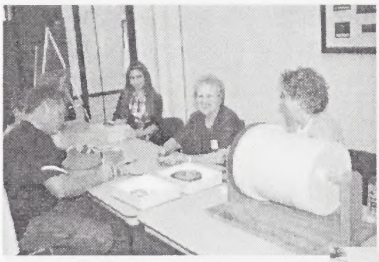
Regular contributor and NNA 1st VP Patrick Milliken gives us another interesting article on Yap money in this issue's YN's Corner on pages 14 thru 17. Details on Lincoln Coin Club's bus trip to FT Atkinson, NE to learn about the numismatic lore of that location from club President, Larry Lee and pictures of that event can be found on pages 20-21.

LNS member, Dylan Arthur is recognized for his contributions to the Krause Catalog on page 23. And as always the state show calendar and club directory close out this issue and can be found on pages 29 and 32.

Enjoy the hobby and enjoy Fall! *-Mitch*

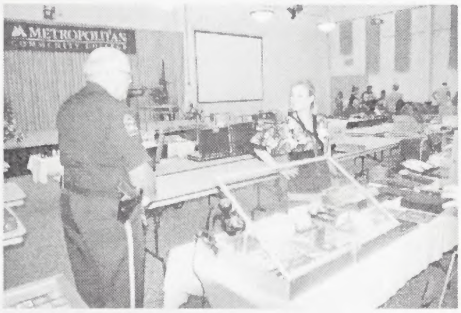
Show Scrapbook
Omaha Coin Club Show
Omaha, NE August 4th, 2012

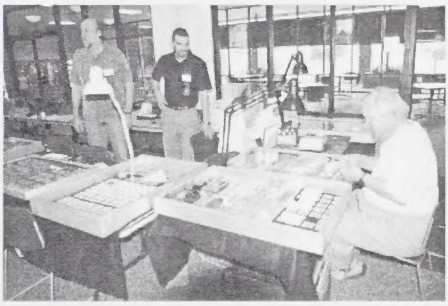
The Omaha Coin Club held their 53rd annual show on August 4th at a new location, the ITC Building on the south campus of Metropolitan Community college. Reports are the change of venue was a positive one. Club members and dealers are already looking forward to next years show.



Free wi-fi for dealers was provided by Metropolitan Community College

The 2013 OCC show will be Saturday August 3rd at the same location. Space is limited. Make your plans now!





All day armed security was a new feature to the OCC Show

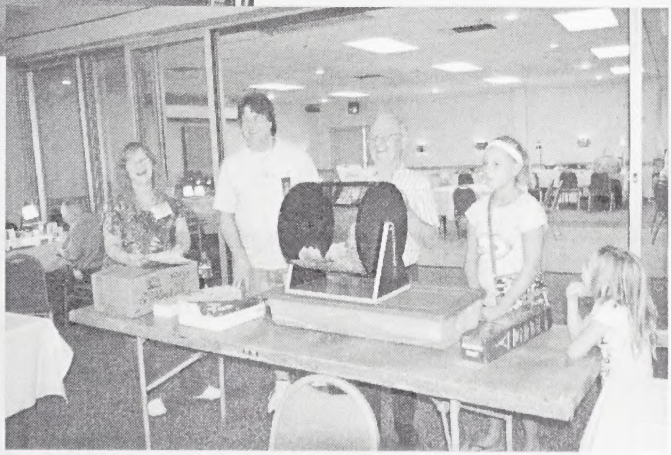
Dealers such as Bjorn Bergstrom from Kearney (right), Wes Keele from Sedalia, MO and John Jackson from Sioux City, IA (below) made the trip to Omaha for the one day show

The NNA would like to thank the Omaha Coin Club for their hospitality in providing a table for the NNA during the show.

Show Scrapbook
Lincoln Numismatic Society Show
Lincoln, NE August 26th, 2012

Lincoln Numismatic Society held it's 5th Annual Show on August 26th at the Oasis Inn on Cornhusker Hwy in Lincoln. A busy bourse kept both dealers and attendees happy.

Congrats to David Willsie and LNS for another successful show



Everyone was all smiles in anticipation of the raffle drawings

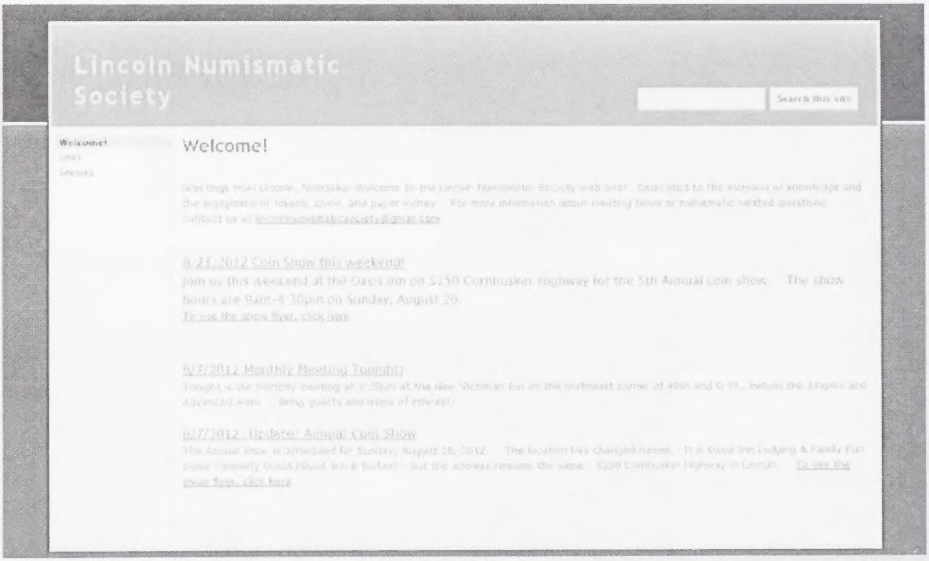
The NNA would like to thank David Willsie and Lincoln Numismatic Society for the use of a table at the LNS Show.

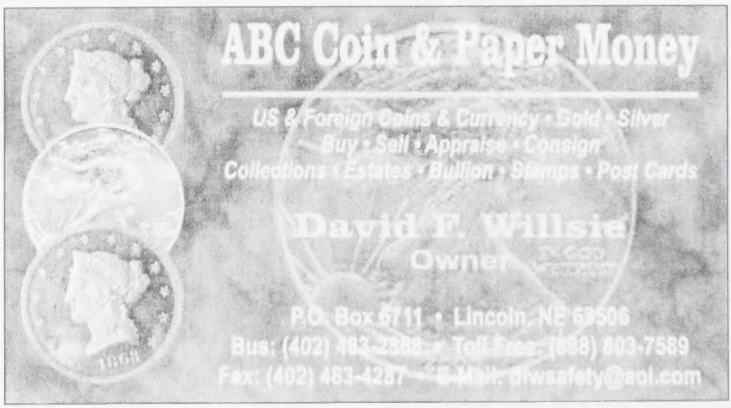
Club Spotlight

Lincoln Numismatic Society launches new website

Lincoln Numismatic Society is proud to announce that it has a new way for you to get in touch and stay in touch with the club. Launched in August 2012 and developed by LNS member, Brian Owens, you are invited to check out LNS through it's new website at

www.Lincoln-NS.org





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NNA
Club News and Events

The lines were long and hunger satisfied at Fremont Coin Club's old fashioned chicken dinner at their July 21st, 2012 meeting.

(Left) FCC Treasurer, Eli Harrah, has his eye on, er, helps serve the desserts after the dinner

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Is your club a member of Central States Numismatic Society? If not, here are some great reasons for your club to join!

TO: ALL CENTRAL STATES MEMBER CLUBS
FROM: RAY LOCKWOOD EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Has your club taken advantage of our programs such as free DVD's, seminars, reimbursements for library book donations and speaker reimbursements? These are annual benefits which CSNS member clubs should be considering.....

1. *FREE DVD'S* -- David Lisot of Cointelevision has produced a series of DVD's which cover all educational programs presented at the ANA, FUN and Central States conventions each year. Five of these are available to your club just for the asking. Simply contact me at [illegible]@aol.com and I will email you the latest list of DVD's that are available. Pick out five titles and return your request to me via email. I will have David Lisot send them to you. These DVD's make great programs for club meetings or can be loaned to club members. Your club can request five DVD's per year.

2. *LIBRARY PROGRAM* -- Contact local public libraries and/or school libraries to find out what numismatic books they would like to receive from your club. If they don't have ideas, give them a list of possible titles. Once they have selected up to $600 worth, your club pays for the books up front and Central State reimburses up to $500. Again, your club can participate in this program on an annual basis.

3. *SPEAKER PROGRAM* -- Looking for speaker? Central States will reimburse your club up to $200 per calendar year for speakers you invite to a club meeting. The $200 can be spent on fees, travel, lodging or meals. The choice is up to the club.

4. *SEMINARS* -- Central States sponsors two numismatic seminars per year in various locations in our 13-state region. Your club can co-host a seminar, suggest speakers, a theme and location. We do the rest. The cost to attend a CSNS seminar are minimal - $10 for members and $20 for non-members.

INTERESTED IN ANY OF THE ABOVE PROGRAMS? IF SO, GIVE ME A CALL OR EMAIL FOR MORE INFORMATION....HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU. REGARDS, RAY 765-664-6520 Email - above

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YN's Corner

-Patrick Milliken (NNA 1st V.P. / OCC YN Director)

Greetings!

Before I go any further, I'd like to say that in my last article I misidentified a coin which I and others I talked to thought was a piece of plate money. According to Mr. A.L. Schrock, I was wrong in in my assumption, and the weight of his knowledge and his informative article certainly bear that out. I will freely admit that I revel in not knowing everything there is to know, and it is the learning that which I do not know that contributes to making life interesting. I would personally like to thank Mr. Schrock for his informative and entertaining article and would personally like to invite him to continue contributing articles to this journal.

Also, I actually forgot (can you believe it?) that Halloween was coming up, so, this year's annual ghost story will have to wait until the next issue. Who knows, I may just find out some information about a Christmas numismatically themed ghost story.

That being said, This week's article is about he largest money that I've ever heard of... Yap Money.

Yap money has to be some of the strangest money in the world. It's stone, usually big and heavy enough to not be moved, it was quarried on a different island and the size of the money does not necessarily determine it's value. On top of that, the money does not necessarily have to be present during transactions.

Yap is a small island north of Australia in the Pacific Ocean in a grouping of islands called the Caroline Islands. Called Wa'ab by the natives, the island of Yap is most famous for it's stone money.

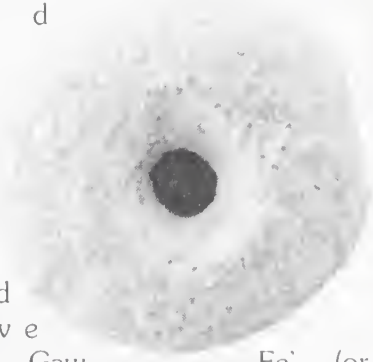
The islanders, called Yappese, developed to a point where they needed a form of money, and, according to oral tradition, one of the chiefs, who happened to be looking at a supposedly full moon at the time, remarked "We should have something large, round and beautiful

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

like the moon, always there like the moon, something that doesn't break or wear or get stolen". Upon this declaration, the islanders set out to find something that would fit the bill, so to speak. Some made it to the island of Palau, which is some 300 miles distant and saw the limestone there. The limestone that these islanders saw was not the type that is commonly seen around Nebraska, It is more of a crystalline form of Limestone, which shines like crystals when hit by the sun. The Yappese explorers had to deal with the natives of Palau, who demanded beads, coconut meat and various services (among other things) for the privilege of quarrying this limestone. As for when this all first originally happened, nobody knows for sure. There is some evidence that the Yappese were quarrying the limestone as early as some time around 500 AD.

This became more prevalent some time around 1000 and 1400 AD. The Yappese, however, claim that they did not start quarrying until sometime around 500 to 600 years ago, and there is little to no mention of their use before about 1800 in white explorers records. The original shape of the money is also up for some debate. Legend holds it that the first pieces of money were carved in the shape of a fish. The shape was changed to what it presently looks like, the shape of a huge doughnut, most likely for easier transportation. After a stone money piece was cut from the limestone deposit, it was transported, most likely on rafts pulled behind wind-powered canoes.



This piece of Yap money is probably a Reng, one of the smallest pieces of Yap money. This stone measures just 3 inches in diameter!

The stone Yap money, generally called Rai, comes in five different general sizes called Mmbul, Gaw, Fe' (or Rai), Yar and Reng, which seems to usually be the smallest size. Yap money can range in size from 12 feet in diameter and up to 12,000 pounds, all the way

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down to as little as about an 1 1/2 inches in size and less than a pound in weight. The size of the money piece, however really doesn't seem to correspond to the value of it. The value was really determined by the danger experienced and the difficulty in bringing the stone back to the island. If one or more of the islanders died in bringing the rai back, that would make it worth more. Also, if a famous Yappese sailor was one of those who brought it back, that would also make it worth more. The money is unique in that, once it was moved to it's final location, it was rarely, if ever, physically moved again. Ownership would, throughout the years and for various reasons, change, but the stone piece would not move. It was just understood, throughout the local village, that the stone piece had changed hands.

When the piece of Yap money changed hands, it's history and pedigree was told to the new owner. This money was not used for small transactions (for which the Yappese had shell money), it was used for such things as paying someone to build a house, for a wife's dowry, for forgiveness, for ceremonial and religious purposes, etc. Another thing that makes the stone money unique is that it did not necessarily have to be present during the transaction, or, for that matter, at any time. There is a legend that a group of islanders was bringing a piece of the money back, but, before they could make it back to Yap, they encountered a storm and the stone ended up sinking to the bottom of the ocean. The islanders, upon making it home, told the story of what happened to everyone. It was decided that, even though the stone was at the bottom of the ocean, it was still good and could still be used. This happened well over a hundred years ago, and, even though no one has seen this piece of money for well over a century, it is still owned by someone and it is still, apparently being used in ceremonial transactions.

The end of the Yap money era really finds it's beginnings in 1871 when an Irish-American sailor, David Dean O'Keefe was shipwrecked upon the island. He was nursed back to health and generally helped by the natives. In return, he helped the native Yappese, aiding them in transporting the Rai stones, and providing them with iron tools to aid

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

in their extraction from the limestone bedrock. While the iron tools and the advanced shipping methods (a modern ship) provided by O'Keefe, allowed the Yappese to quarry and transport even larger stone money pieces, they brought back too many and inflation was the result.

Therefore, the stone Rai produced after 1871 is not worth as much as the earlier pieces. The widespread use of the Yap money essentially stopped after being colonized, first, by Spain, then Germany and finally Japan, none of who cared to use the large, ungainly stone money, some pieces of which, took upwards of twenty men to move.

Today, the American dollar is the currency used by the Yappese, but, many of them, especially the elders will tell you that the dollars are only used for the small transactions. For the large purchases, nothing beats stone.

This article is dedicated to my brother, Brian K. Milliken, M.D. 1968 - 2011

Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yap, http://www.theworld.org/2010/02/stone-money/, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rai_stones, http://www.coinlink.com/News/general-collecting/an-example-of-yap-island-stone-money-to-be-auctioned-during-anas-boston-coin-show/, http://www.coinbooks.org/esylum_v13n51a15.html, http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2011/02/15/131934618/the-island-of-stone-money, http://www.teachers.cr.k12.de.us/~galgano/yapmoney.html

Col. Patrick Milliken, is a professional auctioneer. He is also a fourth generation coin collector and has, himself, been collecting for almost thirty years. He is the YN Director for the Omaha Coin Club and is 1st VP of the NNA. He is also a member of the Sac-Midwest Coin Club. After studying archaeology and anthropology at Baylor University, he earned his degree in History at UNO. He has worked with local museums on several numismatic projects, and is currently running the Omaha Coin Club encased coins program. Patrick lives in Papillion, Ne-

CSNS Launches Medal Design Contest

Central States is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2014 with a special medal, and you can design it. CSNS has marked its annual convention with silver and bronze medals for decades.

For the 2014 medal, the society is launching a contest for the best design. The winner gets his initials on the medal and a specially struck silver medal with the serial number "000."

The obverse of the annual Central States convention medal usually honors the city where the convention is held - Schaumburg, IL, in 2014. The 75th anniversary medal, however, will celebrate Central States' diamond jubilee, instead.

Contest rules are below. **The deadline is Jan. 31, 2013** - just a few months away. Completed designs, or correspondence regarding the contest, should be sent to **Medal Chairman Donald Young, 560 Mariman Ave, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.**
Good luck!

Contest Rules
-The design shall be presented on plain paper, 8 1/2 x ll-inch size, within a 4- to 8- inch diameter circle.
-The subject matter's main theme should be depicted as large as the encompassing circle will allow. Supplementary wording can then be placed in any or all remaining open areas.
-The subject may be presented as a photograph, decal or penciled art layout, supported with or without pictures. Formal art is not necessary.
-The subject matter of the design should be relevant to CSNS 75th anniversary.
-Do not include your initials on the design. These will be added after the judging.
-The reverse side of the medal will be the CSNS logo, as on all previous medals.
-You may submit an explanation of your design.
-You may submit up to three (3) different designs.
-If your entry is of private or commercial subject matter, written permission for use must be obtained from the appropriate authority. If permission is not granted, the design will be disqualified.

All entries must be in the hands of the Medal Chairman by Jan. 31, 2013. -Judging shall be by members appointed by the Chairman.
-The winning design becomes the property of the Central States Numismatic Society. All others will returned, on request.
-The Medal Committee reserves the right to modify the winning design to meet the requirements of the minting process.
-The competition is open to all CSNS members in good standing.
-The winner will be awarded his/her prize at the 2014 CSNS banquet.

IOWA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

74TH ANNUAL SHOW AND CONVENTION

October 27th & 28th 2012

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Nebraska Numismatic Association Journal
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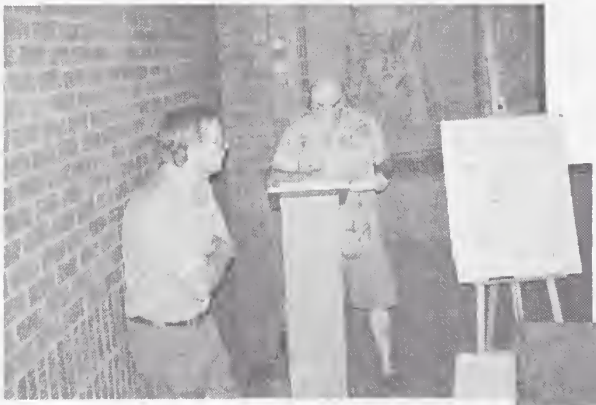
Email: nuMitchmatist@msn.com

Club News

Lincoln Coin Club Bus Trip to Ft. Atkinson State Historical Park August 5th, 2012

LCC members visited both Ft. Atkinson and the Washington County Museum to see numismatic items related to the fort.



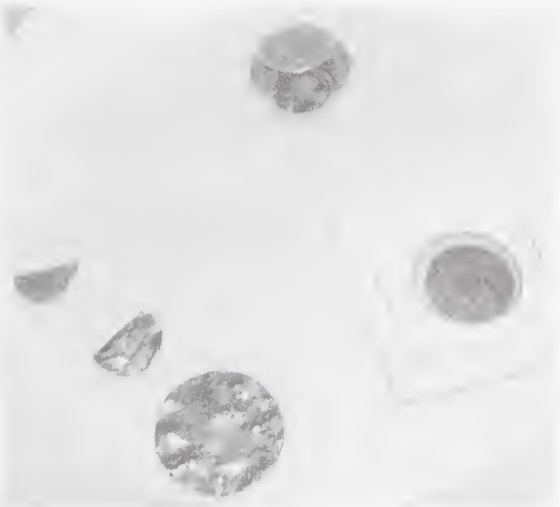
Park Superintendent, John Slader, welcomed LCC members to hear LCC President, Larry Lee's presentation.

An inventory of coins found at the site.

A sampling of coins found at Ft. Atkinson

Do you know what a pig coin is?

If you had gone on the bus trip you could have found out. →



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NNA
Club News and Recognitions

Photo by David Willsie

Dylan Arthur of the Lincoln Numismatic Society was recognized recently for his continued contributions to Krause World Coin Publications Coin Catalog for his work in submitting and editing new world coin information.

His name is referenced in the last two editions of the Krause catalog. The most recent catalog (holding in picture) just came out a month or so ago.

Dylan is from Hickman, NE , is a student and avid world coin collector. He has been a major player in the LNS "youth group" and recently turned "21"-Happy-B-Day Dylan ! He was also recently recognized at a LNS meeting where this picture was taken.

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ANA Re-launches Website

A successful re-launch of its website was achieved by the American Numismatic Association July 24th, 2012 just eight days after its initial attempt ran into a technical problem.

"We feel like our members are getting a much better website that will have fewer problems and much more stability. Now we'll turn out attention to building a brand-new Money.org," said ANA Executive Director Jeff Shevlin.

This path to the brand-new site is expected to be traveled over the next year. Members with suggestions can email them to Jake Sherlock, ANA communication coordination, at jsherlock@money.org.

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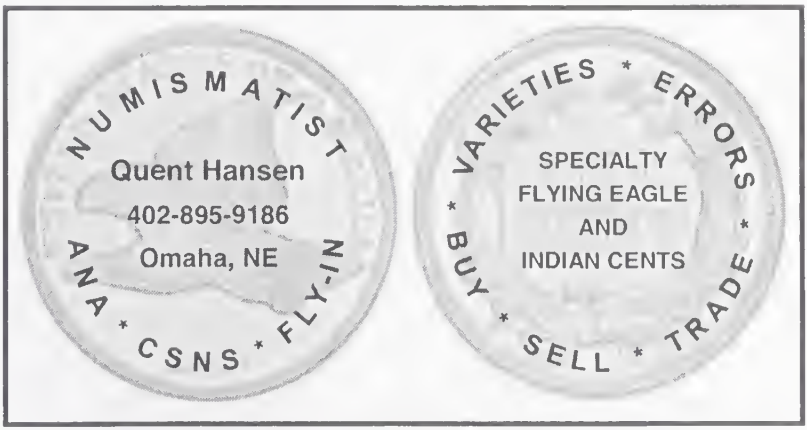

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NNA
Member News

J&J Coins Opens Bellevue, NE Store

John Jackson of J&J Coins recently announced that the newest J&J Coins store has opened in Bellevue, NE.

The store is located at 438 Galvin Road North and is open from 9 AM to 6 PM Monday through Friday. The store's phone number is 402-734-1470.

The staff of J&J Coins Bellevue will be buying and selling coins, stamps, postcards, gold, silver and antiques.

The Bellevue, NE store joins J&J Coins in Sioux City, IA and Majestic Coins in Storm Lake, IA.

Nebraska Numismatic Events
2012 State Coin Club Show Calendar

●

October 13, 2012
6th Annual Wyo-braska Show
Gering, NE
Info: Larry Gibbs
oth@prairieweb.com
308-641-6310

●

Grand Island Coin Show
January 2013
No info submitted
Info
Max Mader 308-381-2311

●

2013 NNA Show and Convention
Hosted by the Fremont Coin Club
Saturday May 4th and Sunday May 5th, 2013
Fremont City auditorium
Info: Bob Missel
402-317-7832

●

August 3rd, 2013
Omaha Coin Club
54th Annual Show
9 am –5 pm
ITC Building Metropolitan Community College

(Continued on page 30)

South Campus
27th & Q St
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Info: Mitch Ernst 402-397-2696
Email: OmahaCoinClub@msn.com

●

Other Shows
(dates and details subject to change)

Nebraska City Coin Show
February 2013

Lincoln Coin Club
March 2013

Omaha Postcard & Paper Show
March 2013

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For questions about The Centinel,
contact Gerald Tebben, Editor
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CONTACT
Ed Bishop
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edabish@msn.com

Nebraska Numismatic Association

Club Directory - Meeting times and locations

Fremont - Fremont Coin Club, 3rd Saturday, The Evangelical Free Church Social Hall, 20th & Lincoln Streets, 7:30 pm.

Grand Island - Grand Island Coin Club, No longer meeting

Kearney - Rumor has it that Kearney has a new coin club. The Journal is awaiting confirmation and club name and location

Lincoln - Lincoln Coin Club, 2nd Thursday, Eastridge Presbyterian Church, 1135 Eastridge Dr. 7:30 pm.

Lincoln - Lincoln Numismatic Society, 1st Thursday, New Victorian Inn, 48th & O St., Lincoln, NE 7:30 pm.

Nebraska City - Nebraska City Coin Club, 4th Tuesday, @ the Burger King S 77 Hwy, 7:00 pm

North Platte - The North Platte Coin Club meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at the North Platte Senior Center, 900 East 10th, North Platte For information contact: Loren Shimmin (308) 532-9622

Omaha - Omaha Coin Club, 3rd Friday, Douglas/Sarpy County Extension Office, 8015 West Center Road. 7:30 pm. YN's 7:00 pm.

Omaha - SAC/Midwest Coin Club, 1st Tuesday, Denny's Restaurant, 84th & I-80, 7:00 pm.

South Sioux City - Siouxland Coin Club, write for information, 901 S. Cecelia, Sioux City, Iowa, 51106

Seward - Nebraska Token Collectors Club, 2nd Sunday, Cattle National Bank, 2:00 pm.

Wahoo - Wahoo Coin Club, 1st Saturday, Saunders County Historical Museum, 240 N. Walnut, 7:30 pm.

→Not responsible for incorrect information caused by cacography ←

If you have corrections or addtions please submit them in writing to:
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